

these community activities, Mr. Beckett also found time to become a published author, writing two books about faith in the workplace.

For these business and community activities, Mr. Beckett has received numerous accolades. He received an honorary doctor of law degree from both Spring Arbor University in 2002 and also from King's College in 2008. He was also named Christian Businessman of the Year by the Christian Broadcasting Network in 1999 and the Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young in 2003.

Today, he resides in Elyria, OH, with his wife, Wendy, to whom he has been married since 1961.

I am thankful to John D. Beckett for his support of many nonprofit organizations that defend the rights of the unborn and religious freedom. His work in helping establish the Intercessors for America has led to untold numbers of prayers being raised for the pro-life movement. I am pleased to honor his work through that organization as well as his lifetime of service to so many worthy causes.●

TRIBUTE TO PHIL BRYANT

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I am honored to pay tribute to former Governor Phil Bryant of Mississippi. While there are many things for which the Governor deserves praise, today I specifically want to speak about Governor Bryant's stalwart work during his term of office from 2012–2020 to protect and defend the most vulnerable of our society: unborn children.

While running for office, Phil Bryant promised Mississippians that he would work tirelessly as Governor to protect the rights of the unborn. He fulfilled that promise. Throughout two terms in office, Governor Bryant was a driving force behind legislative efforts to protect life in Mississippi.

In April 2012, Governor Bryant signed Mississippi House Bill 1390. This bill required abortion practitioners to be certified as obstetrician-gynecologists and to maintain admitting privileges at a local hospital. Through these requirements, this legislation sought to strengthen abortion regulations and ensure that women receive quality care for any complications following an abortion.

In April 2014, Governor Bryant signed Mississippi House Bill 1400, banning abortions performed after 20 weeks. This legislation cited a plethora of medical evidence, showing that a baby can feel pain at this stage, and that pregnant women are at increased health risks, even death, when undergoing later-term abortion procedures.

Additionally, Governor Bryant signed into law the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act in 2016, banning dismemberment abortions or those involving the practice known as D&E or "dilation and evacuation." Dismemberment is the most prevalent method of second trimester abortion, accounting for 96 per-

cent of all second trimester abortions. With the enactment of this law, Governor Bryant not only banned these violent dismemberment procedures from taking place in the Mississippi, he also prohibited the illegal trafficking of the bodies of aborted babies in Mississippi.

Governor Bryant did not stop there and continued working to keep his promise to make Mississippi "the safest place in America" for unborn babies. In 2018, he signed the Gestational Age Act, which banned abortions after 15 weeks in most cases. It is this law being challenged at the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*.

Throughout all of these laws, Governor Bryant maintained steadfast courage and held tightly to his promise to the people of Mississippi to fight continuously to protect the unborn. I love what he once said when groups threatened legal action against our State's pro-life legislation. He said, "We will all answer to the good Lord one day. I will say in this instance, 'I fought for the lives of innocent babies, even under threat of legal action.'"

That is indeed true. When his time comes, Governor Bryant can stand tall before the Lord, having fought the good fight to protect the unborn. And indeed, when the Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the *Dobbs* case on December 1, Governor Bryant can smile in the knowledge that his work was not in vain.

For all these reasons, I call attention to Governor Phil Bryant. He deserves laudable recognition for his 8-year fight to protect and defend the right to life for the unborn babies in the womb, reflecting the character and values of the people of our State, Mississippi.●

TRIBUTE TO BECKY CURRIE

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, it is an honor to pay tribute to Representative Becky Currie, a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, who authored the Gestational Age Act. It is this State law that underlies the U.S. Supreme Court's consideration of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* this term.

When the Supreme Court hears oral arguments on *Dobbs* on December 1, 2021, it will hear a defense of the pro-life cause generating from the work of Becky Currie, my friend and my representative. In the Mississippi House, she represents district 92, which covers my hometown of Brookhaven.

Becky's forethought in introducing this bill and shepherding it through the State legislature has led us to the point where the Supreme Court is considering a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*. By prohibiting most abortions after 15 weeks, the Gestational Age Act presents directly the question of whether *Roe's* viability standard remains good law.

Becky's background as a nurse, her tenacious personality, and her heart

for the unborn made her the perfect person to sponsor this important bill. She knows how to fight and isn't afraid of criticism. Her stubborn persistence in promoting policies to protect the unborn has made Mississippi a safer place for women and their babies. Through the Supreme Court's consideration of her bill, Becky Currie has the potential to do that for our entire Nation.

As the Supreme Court prepares to hear oral arguments in the *Dobbs* case, we are all indebted to Representative Currie's her courage and tenacity in sponsoring the Gestational Age Act. Praise God for bringing us this far. I also pray that He will continue to work through Representative Currie, using her law to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and make our Nation a safer place for the unborn and their mothers.●

TRIBUTE TO MARK LEE DICKSON

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to Pastor Mark Lee Dickson of Longview, TX, who founded the Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn Initiative in 2019. This innovative organization works to encourage cities and towns to adopt ordinances declaring themselves as Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn.

Under Pastor Dickson's leadership, this grassroots Sanctuary Cities for the Unborn movement has saved many babies throughout the Nation in 41 towns and cities that have adopted these ordinances.

This is not the only way that Pastor Dickson has dedicated himself to championing the pro-life movement. He also serves as the director of Grassroots for Right to Life of East Texas and as the senior pastor of Sovereign Love Church in Longview.

Across our Nation, pro-life citizens of all ages and backgrounds represent the backbone of the grassroots movement to protect the unborn. Individuals like Pastor Dickson who take it on themselves to help promote life and prevent abortion in their own communities drive the passion in this movement.

The Pastor Dickson and millions of other Americans have kept this issue salient for our political discourse and has led us to the place where the U.S. Supreme Court will be reconsidering its misguided abortion jurisprudence established by *Roe v. Wade* when it takes up a challenge to a Mississippi law banning most abortions after 15 weeks gestation. In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the stage is set for the potential overturning of *Roe* and returning the issue of abortion to the States.

I pray for Pastor Dickson and that God would raise up more like him. Pastor Dickson's example shows that the courage of one person can make a difference.●